II. *Part of a Letter from Dr.* Steigertahl, *F. R. S. to Sir* Hans Sloane, *Bart. Preſ. R. S. giving an Account of a* Narhual *or* Unicorn Fiſh, *lately taken in the River* Oſt, *Dutchy of* Bremen, *dated at* Hanover, $\frac{\text{May 1.}}{\text{April 20}}$ 1736. *Tranſlated from the* French *by* T. S. *M. D.* &c.

TOwards the End of *January* laſt, N. S. we had the Curioſity to catch a ſort of Whale called the *Narhual* or *Sea-Unicorn*. It was taken in the River *Oſt*, near the Village *Bellum*, where it falls into the *Elbe*, (in the Dutchy of *Bremen*, which belongs to our Monarch) four *German* Miles from the Sea. They took a great Quantity of Fat out of it, to make (Thrann or) Whale-Oil; but obſerved, that this Train-Oil was of a Stench almoſt intolerable, by reaſon that this *Narhual* feeds on Carcaſſes: For *Nar* ſignifies a Carcaſs or dead Body, according to *Valentini* in his *Muſeum Muſeorum*, Book III. Chap. 30.

There was ſuch Care taken of the Skin, before the Diſſection, that it was cured with Salt and Alum, and ſtuff'd ſo as to give the juſt Figure of the Fiſh: Having left with it the Bones of the Skull, and ſome Vertebræ near the Tail.

The Skin was ſpotted with dark brown Spots upon a white Ground. The Epidermis was tranſparent, and under it was another Skin very thin and ſpotted; but the true Skin was brown, and near an Inch in Thickneſs. On the Top of the Head they only found a ſemilunar Hole, as in the Porpoiſe, according to the De-

Deſcription given by *John Daniel Major*, and publiſh'd in the *Miſcell. Academ. Nat. Curioſ. Dec.* 1. *An.* 3. *p.* 22. *& ſeqq.* This Hole opens into the two Canals which run through the Skull to the Palate, and are called by *Major*, *Ductus hydragogi.* They did not remark in the Skin any Opening or Outlet for the Excrements; and I have been told, that this *Narhual* voided them through this Hole on the Top of the Head.

Concerning the Horn, I agree in Opinion with *Wormius* and others, who take it for a Tooth; but I cannot believe that its ſole Uſe is to break the Ice: It rather ſerves the Fiſh for ſeeking its Food. A Captain of a *Grœnland* Veſſel has aſſured me, that being upon the Coaſt a Whale-fiſhing, and having taken one, as he was turning the Whale to get at the Fat, he found on the oppoſite Side to him, a *Narhual*, that had ſtuck this Tooth into the Whale's Belly, up to its Mouth, and had ſuck'd the Blood and Humors.

I am ſorry I have not an exact Account to ſend you of every Particular that was obſerv'd in the Diſſection of this *Narhual*; for I have only ſeen the ſtuff'd Skin, and conſequently the outward Shape, as it was carrying to *Leipſic* Fair, and on the way ſhewn here at *Hanover*. And as I find that the Figure engrav'd and printed at *Hamburg*, has a good Likeneſs to what I have ſeen, I have hereto annexed a Print of it.

EXPLANATION *of the* PRINT. TAB. I. Fig. 1.

1. A Semilunar Hole, through which the Fiſh caſt out Water and Blood, upon dying.
2. A ſmall Riſing on the Middle of the Back, and fleſhy as the Fins.

3. The

3. The Mouth very little, without Teeth in the upper Jaw, except this *Dens prominens*, or Tusk; which has by ſome been taken for a Horn: And there was no lower Jaw found.
4. The Eye, very ſmall.
5. The Fin on the right Side, which, as well as the oppoſite, is fleſhy.
6. The Tail fleſhy, like the Fins; which, taken according to its Width, is not vertical, but horizontal.
7. The prominent Tooth or Tusk, generally taken for a Horn.

The Length of this *Narhual* from N° 3 to 6, was meaſured, and found to be 17 Feet 9 Inches.

The Tooth ſix Feet three Inches.

The greateſt Thickneſs, meaſured round, was 14 Feet.

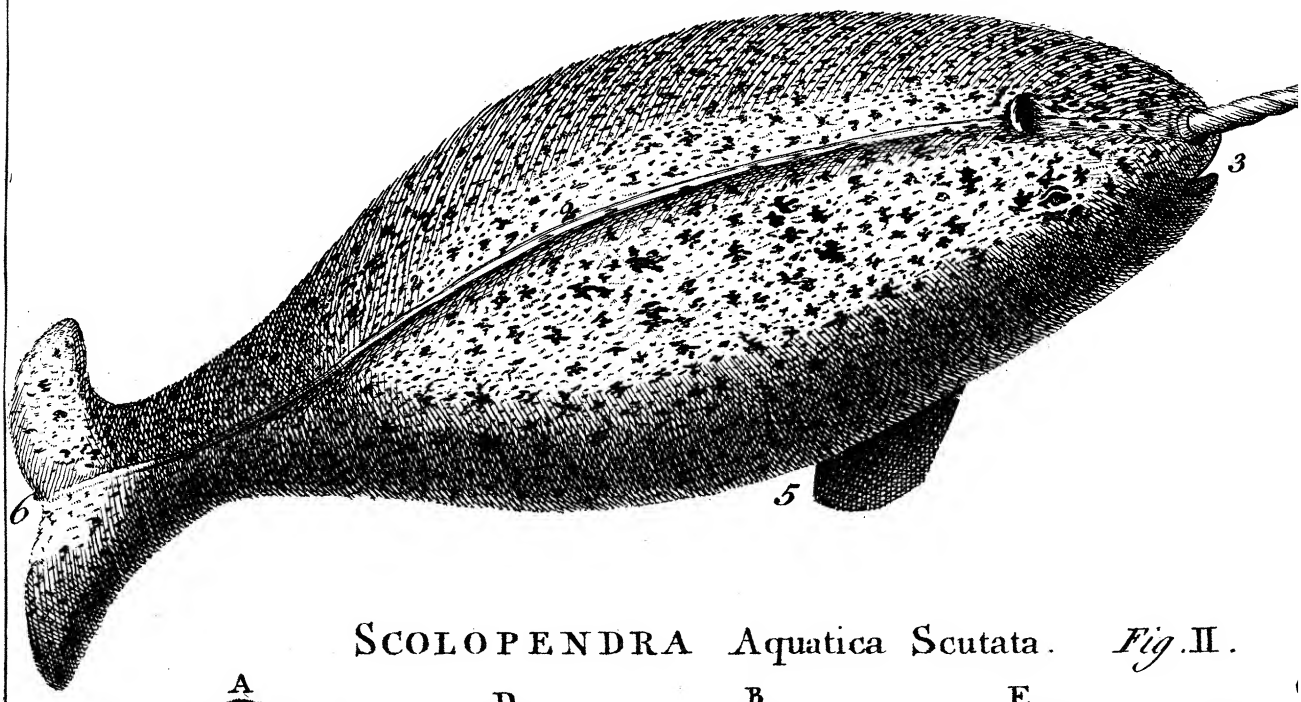
The Skin was ſmooth, without Scales, like that of an Eel; and was white mark'd with blackiſh Spots.

III. *A Deſcription of the ſame* Narhual, *communicated by* John Henry Hampe, *M. D. F. R. S.*

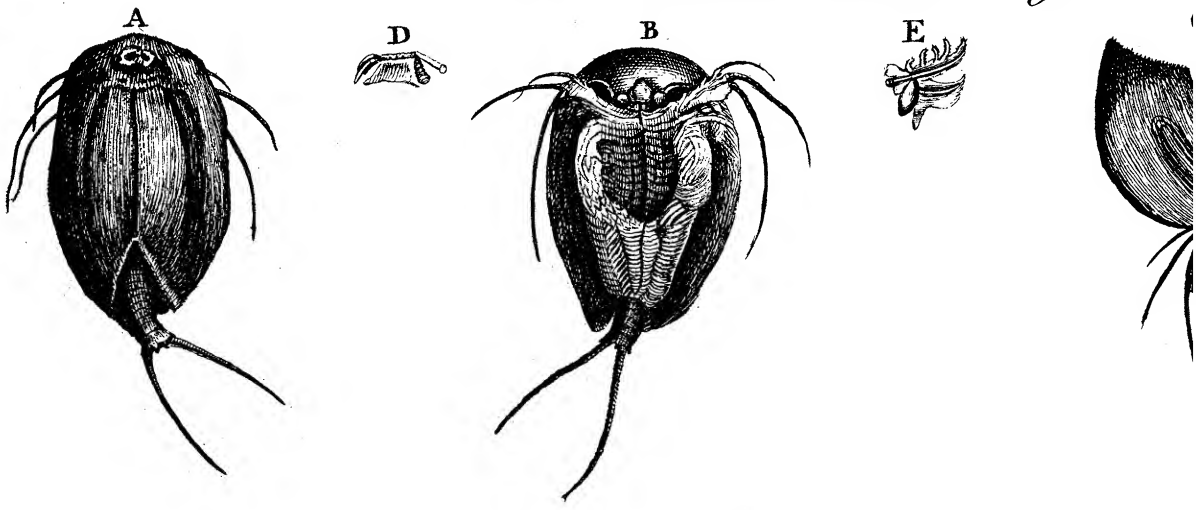
IN a Creek called the *Beluhmer Wadt*, belonging to the Bailiwick of *Newhaus* in the Dutchy of *Bremen*, hath been caught alive, an unknown Fiſh of a large Size, 18 to 20 Feet in Length, and four in Diameter. He hath on the Fore-part of the Head, juſt above the Mouth, which is very ſmall, a Horn ſix Feet long, white like Ivory, and curiouſly twiſted. The Body is white, ſprinkled with black Spots, and ſmooth like an Eel. The Head is in Proportion to the Body,

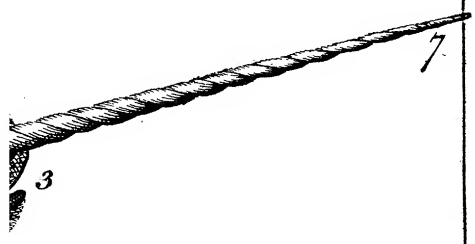
very

NARHUAL . *Fig.* I.



SCOLOPENDRA Aquatica Scutata. *Fig.* II.





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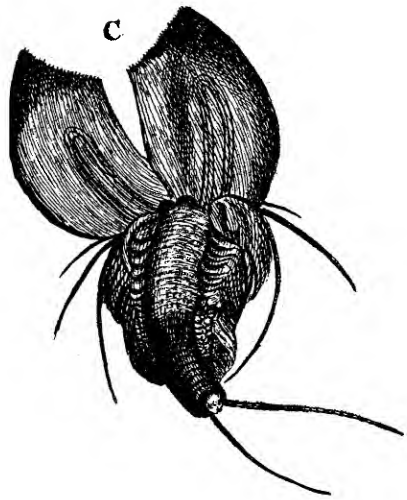

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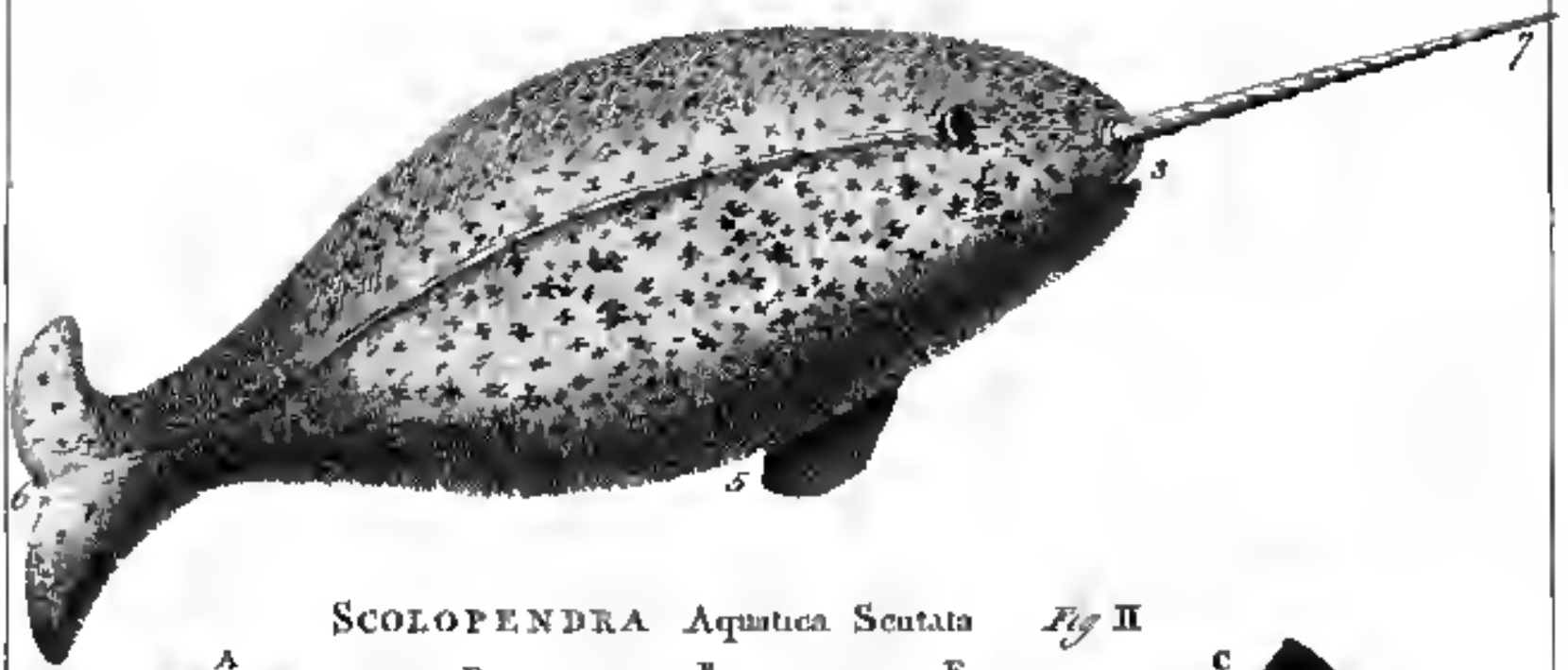
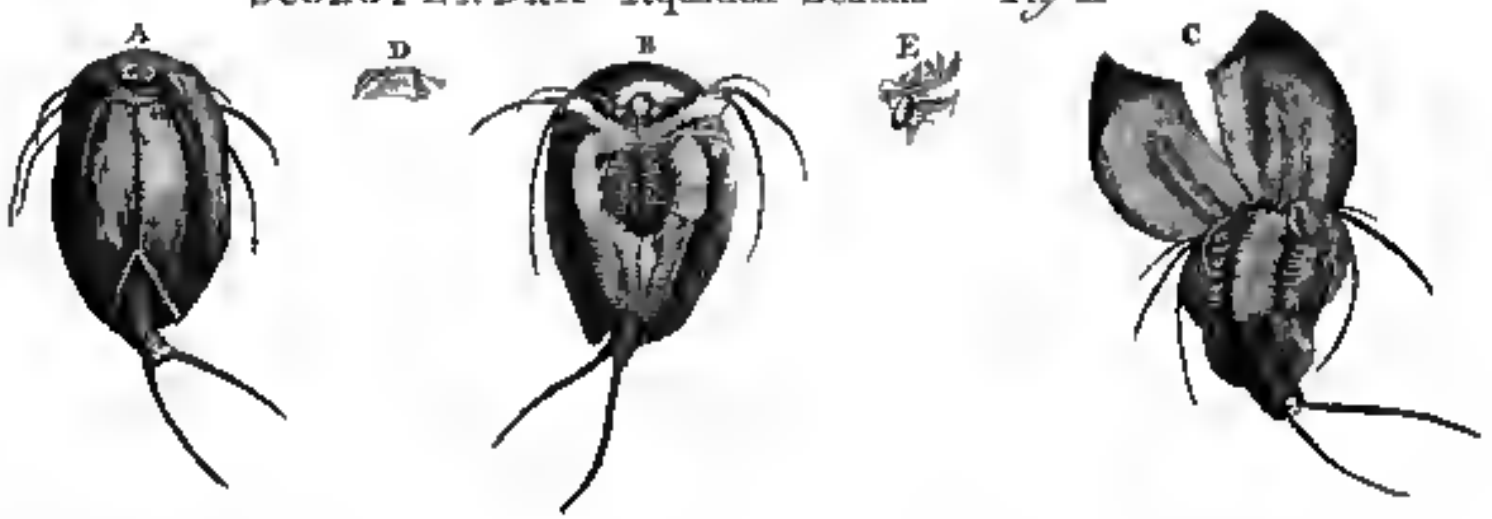
NARHUAL *Fig* I



SCOLOPENDRA Aquatica Scutata *Fig* II